

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 18247 231039Z

44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 OPR-02 AGR-20 TRSE-00 /187 W

----- 063673

R 230927Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8460

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 18247

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ELAB, TH

SUBJECT: WORK STOPPAGES INCREASE UNDER NEW GOVERNMENT

REF : A) BANGKOK 12874;

B) BANGKOK A-125, MAY 11, 1973

1. JUST AS SHARP RICE PRICE INCREASES EARLIER IN SUMMER OF 1973 HELPED STIMULATE RASH OF WORK STOPPAGES, SO THE ROUGHLY ONE MONTH SINCE MORE TOLERANT SANYA GOVERNMENT WAS SUDDENLY CATAPULTED INTO OFFICE HAS WITNESSED INCREASING RESORT BY WORKERS IN INDIVIDUAL PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT TO WORK STOPPAGES TO WIN IMPROVED WAGES AS WELL AS BETTER CONDITIONS OF WORK. STRIKES HAVE BEEN MAINLY SUCCESSFUL, ESPECIALLY ON WAGE DEMANDS. EMPLOYEES OF STATE ENTERPRISES HAVE BEEN CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR MILITANCY AND BY THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED FOR THEIR DEMANDS. AFTER THAILAND'S FIRST EVER NATIONWIDE RAIL STRIKE THAT LASTED ONLY FIVE AND ONE HALF HOURS, MANAGEMENT AGREED TO ALL OF 13 POINT DEMANDS PUT FORTH BY WORKERS.

2. ASIDE FROM LONG ACCUMULATING AND PENT UP DEMANDS OF WORKERS OVER MANY YEARS, CURRENT MAJOR CAUSES ARE: A) CONTINUED UPWARD MOVEMENT IN THE COST OF LIVING DESPITE STABILIZATION OF RICE PRICES; B) GREATER SYMPATHY BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC TOWARD WORKERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 18247 231039Z

SINCE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 14; C) GROWING ASSERTIVENESS ON THE PART

OF THE WORKERS GOING BACK TO PROMULGATION OF NEW LABOR ASSOCIATION LAW IN SPRING OF 1973 (REF B); D) GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH STRIKES. THEY ARE SPECIFICALLY ILLEGAL UNDER LABOR LAW IN PUBLIC UTILITIES. ADDITIONAL INFLUENCE ON WORKER ATTITUDES IN BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND LABOR IN FACE OF LABOR'S NEW-FOUND ASSERTIVENESS.

3. WIDESPREAD SUCCESSES ACHIEVED BY WORK STOPPAGES TO DATE LIKELY TO PRESAGE CONTINUED FREQUENT RESORT TO THIS BARGAINING WEAPON IN FUTURE AS WELL. SHOULD UPWARD PRICE PRESSURES CONTINUE, AS SEEMS ASSURED BY CONSEQUENCES OF ENERGY CRISIS AND PERSISTING WORLD WIDE INFLATION, THERE MAY BE EVEN MORE STRIKES IN FUTURE. COUNTERING INFLUENCES WILL BE GROWING GOVERNMENT AND ESPECIALLY PUBLIC INTOLERANCE OF ECONOMIC DISRUPTIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN MINOR SO FAR, PARTICULARLY IF THESE BECOME MORE PROTRACTED, PREOCCUPATION WITH PREPARATIONS FOR NEW CONSTITUTION AND ELECTIONS, AND FAVORABLE RICE HARVEST WHICH NOW IS VIRTUALLY ASSURED.
KINTNER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXTILE INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT REFORM, RICE, LABOR STRIKES, LABOR DISPUTES, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO18247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731117/aaaaamol.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BANGKOK 12874;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORK STOPPAGES INCREASE UNDER NEW GOVERNMENT
TAGS: ELAB, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005